



Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>



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Office of Wastewater Management

Working towards Clean Water



Upcoming Meetings, Conferences and Training

Permits Writers' Training

Permits Division will be conducting the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course in Seattle, Washington on September 21-25, 1998 and in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 16-20, 1998. This course is co-sponsored by the Department of the Navy and the Department of Energy in 1998. For more information, contact Daniel Weese on (202) 260-6809.

National Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

Two Offerings of NETCSC Course Scheduled for Missouri. The Southern Ozark Planning Commission of Missouri will cosponsor two presentations of NETCSC's **Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities** course; one September 25 and the other October 9 in two separate geographic regions of the Commission's planning district. Specific locations of the course which will be offered to trainers and local officials are not yet selected. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

Best Technology Available for Cooling Water Intake Structures

EPA will hold a two day public meeting on September 10 and 11 in Alexandria, Virginia to discuss specific issues associated with determining the Best Technology Available (BTA) for cooling water intake structures. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate an exchange of information that will assist EPA in developing regulatory options regarding: 1) the role of technologies in determining BTA; 2) the role of costs in determining BTA; and, 3) the role of mitigation in determining BTA. This is a follow-on public meeting to the one the Agency held on June 29, 1998 to discuss issues associated with defining and measuring adverse environmental impacts from cooling water intake structures.

The Section 316(b) workgroup leaders are working with EPRI to organize and plan a Clean Water Act Section 316(b) Technical Workshop to discuss and exchange technical information related to EPA's §316(b) rule-making effort among our members, EPA staff, and experts in fisheries science. The technical workshop will be held September 23, 1998, Coolfont Conference Center, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia.

For more information, contact Deborah Nagle on (202) 260-2656.

6th National Storm Water Coordinator's Conference

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Branch is holding their **6th National Storm Water Coordinator's Conference** at the **Omni Inner Harbor Hotel** in **Baltimore, Maryland**. The dates for

the conference are **September 21-24, 1998**. The meeting will provide an overview of the storm water program status and discuss specific issues affecting future implementation of the program. The meeting will be a combination of full-session meetings, concurrent breakout sessions, and a field trip to a best management practice education park. For more information, contact Betty West on (202) 260-8486.

Title VI Federal Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting

The National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, Title VI Implementation Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting on October 19-20, 1998 (location to be determined). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin in their programs or activities. The purpose of this committee is to review and evaluate existing tools, techniques and processes for 1) assessing whether disparate impacts based on race, color, or national origin have occurred or have the potential to occur; 2) mitigating disparate impacts where they occur; and 3) operating environmental permitting programs in compliance with Title VI. For more information, contact Mahesh Podar on (202) 260-5387.

Other Upcoming Progress

Environmental Technology Verification Grants Awarded

2 The Office of Wastewater Management

The Office of Research and Development awarded Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) grants for 2 pilot projects, one for Source Water Protection (which includes decentralized treatment of wastewater), and the other for wet weather flow (Sanitary Sewer Overflows, Combined Sewer Overflows and storm water) to the National Sanitation Foundation International (NSFI).

NSFI is the partner that will operate the testing center. A stakeholder group will be convened for each pilot in the fall. For more information, contact Joyce Hudson, Municipal Technology Branch, on (202) 260-1290.

Clean Water Needs Survey (CWNS) Database Modernization

An Alpha Test of the production system for the CWNS database took place at the Systems Development Center (SDC) in Arlington, VA on June 15 --17. The Alpha Test provided EPA and other participants the opportunity to see how the system will function to support the CWNS 2000. It also afforded participants an opportunity for hands-on experience with the production database system. Following the alpha testing, additional training on the production system will be conducted at Region II offices on September 15 -17, 1998. Installation will occur in late fall. For more information, contact Jim Shuster on



(202) 260-5829.

Regulations at Work

NPDES Round II Streamlining

The Permits Division NPDES Round II streamlining team has submitted a second draft of the final regulation preamble language for internal review. A draft of the final regulation for review by other EPA concerned parties is expected to follow after approval. At that time, the team will work with offices interested in NPDES Round II streamlining to address their concerns about the rule. Additionally, the NPDES Round II streamlining team has developed a communication strategy for the release of the final regulation. For more information, contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. We expect to publish a

proposed rule this fall. For more information contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

MTB TECHNICAL FACT SHEETS ON Y2K FOR WASTEWATER PLANTS

The Municipal Technology Branch, in cooperation with the Office of Water and the Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, is developing fact sheets and other technical information to assist municipalities in meeting Y2K compliance. This technical information will also be provided to users by regions, states and tribes. Trade and professional associations are working with MTB to get the word out, and disseminate the technical information. For further information see the agency home page for Y2K: <http://www.epa.gov/year2000> and the

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

OW Action Plan for Y2K listed under it. For more information, contact James Wheeler on (202) 260-5827.

Water Conservation Plan Guidelines

On August 6, 1998 EPA issued guidelines for water conservation plans for public water systems in accordance with Sec. 1455 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. States may require water systems to submit a water conservation plan consistent with the EPA or other guidelines as a condition of receiving a loan under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Guidelines contain step-by-step approaches and conservation measures that can be used by water system planners to develop and implement plans for water conservation. The Guidelines are available on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/genwave.htm>. A paper copy may be obtained by writing or calling the Office of Water Resource Center (Mail Code RC4100), U. S. EPA, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D. C. 20460; phone number 202-260-7786 and requesting document #EPA-832-D-98-001.

The Office of Wastewater Management is planning a number of outreach activities in connection with the Guidelines, including a presentation in September at a Connecticut Rural Water Association Symposium near Hartford and a discussion of the Guidelines on local cable TV with Connecticut's Attorney General, Department of Environmental Protection Director, and Water Conservation Program Director. Further information on the Guidelines may be obtained by writing to John E. Flowers (Mail Code 4204), U. S. EPA, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington D. C. 20460.

Just Published - The Office of

Wastewater Management Primer

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) Primer has been published. The Primer discusses the functions of OWM and its importance to protecting the environment.

To obtain copies you may contact the Water Resource Center at (202) 260-7786. The publication number is 833-K-98-001.

1998 National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards

On August 26, 1998, J. Charles Fox, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, notified 46 recipients of EPA's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards, which are provided to industries, municipalities, and individuals who demonstrate an outstanding technological achievement, method, or device in wastewater treatment and pollution abatement programs. The awards in operations and maintenance, beneficial use of biosolids, pretreatment, storm water management and combined sewer overflow control will be presented on October 5, 1998, at the Water Environment Federation annual conference in Orlando, Florida. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.